



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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Helping Veterans Succeed Investing in Veterans and Their Families

Nearly 400,000 veterans call Minnesota home. Our veterans have endured great sacrifice to make our state and country safer. That is why Governor Dayton delivered a budget that invests in Minnesota veterans, ensuring they receive the education, opportunities, and benefits they earned through their service.

» **Minneapolis Veterans Home.** The budget includes \$18.9 million in the bonding bill to complete Phase 3 of the Minneapolis Veterans Home replacement project. With this state funding, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs hopes to leverage \$35.2 million in federal funds through a competitive grant process and will provide high-quality skilled nursing services for Minnesota's veterans.

» **Expansion of the Minnesota GI Bill.** With an additional \$1 million investment, the Minnesota GI Bill program will expand to include all generations of veterans – not just those serving on or after 9/11. This expansion will help ensure all Minnesota veterans have access to the education and training they need to get good-paying jobs.

» **One-on-One Help for Veterans.** The budget provides \$2 million in increased grant funding for County Veteran Services Offices, which help veterans and their families obtain the benefits and services they earned through military service.

» **Proper Burial for Military Veterans.** Governor Dayton is committed to ensuring all veterans who request funeral honors receive them. For that reason, this budget includes \$400,000 in permanent funding for the Honor Guard Program, which supports veterans and their families by providing military funeral honors earned through their service and sacrifice.

» **Supporting Military Families after the Loss of a Loved One.** The budget provides \$200,000 in permanent funding for the Gold Star Program, which supports the families of those service members who lost their lives in combat as they heal from their loss. This state funding commitment will help restore the program after losing authority to use federal funds.

» **New State Veterans Cemetery in Fillmore County.** The state will invest \$425,000 in start-up and on-going funding for a new state veterans cemetery in Fillmore County, opening in 2015. This cemetery will provide burial space for nearly 40,000 veterans. Governor Dayton believes every veteran deserves a dignified final resting place.

» **Addressing Veteran Homelessness.** This budget includes \$500,000 in increased grant funding for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, which works in collaboration with community organizations to help veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness.